

SOLACE

ISSUP INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
SUBSTANCE USE
PROFESSIONALS

NIGERIA chapter



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INAUGURATION OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS

SAFE PREVENTION & TREATMENT PRACTICES FOR
SUBSTANCE USE PROFESSIONALS

IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

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Editorial Board

Dr. Bawo O. James, Publicity Secretary/Mobilization
Mr. Chris Ibe, Asst. Publicity Secretary/Mobilization

An Interview With
PROF. MUSA ABBA WAKIL,
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SOLACE: Can we meet you?

MAW: I am Musa Abba Wakil (MBBS (ABU), FWACP (Psychiatry)), a professor of psychiatry, in the Department of Mental Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Medical Sciences, University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria, and honorary consultant psychiatrist to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and Federal Neuro-psychiatric Hospital, Maiduguri. I had my O- and A-level education at the famous Barewa College, Zaria and Northeast College of Arts and Science, Maiduguri (present day University of Maiduguri), respectively. I graduated from the College of Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. I did my residency training in psychiatry at Neuro-psychiatric Hospital Aro, Abeokuta (WHO Collaborative Centre for Research & Training) and became a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians, Faculty of Psychiatry (FWACP (Psychiatry)).

I was the pioneer Medical Director, Federal Neuro-psychiatric Hospital, Maiduguri, where I mentored many early career psychiatrists and participated in several conferences and workshops both locally and internationally. I have over fifty research publications in peer-reviewed, in local and international journals.

SOLACE: What has ISSUP Nigeria been doing to improve the drug prevention and treatment space in Nigeria?

MAW: ISSUP Nigeria is a non-governmental association organization established in Nigeria with the primary aim of providing professional evidence-based information on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. Since its inception, ISSUP Nigeria has identified and



registered health professionals in the field of substance use prevention and treatment and provided a network for professionals to interact.

It has provided access to training and education and in collaboration with the Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification, it has ensured certification examinations for professionals. ISSUP Nigeria has collaborated with other organizations (such as the UNODC) that are involved in drug prevention and treatment in Nigeria.

SOLACE: Looking at efforts by Nigeria at tackling the drug menace over the last few years, what are we doing right and what needs to be improved?

MAW: Supply reduction which we are doing right to a degree! The Nigerian Government has setup various agencies like the NDLEA and other security agencies to handle the issue of supply reduction in the country. However, more efforts need to be put in place to tackle the problem of availability of psychoactive substances in the country.

Demand reduction needs improvement as there are currently no comprehensive government policies in place for demand

reduction of psychoactive substances in the country. There is an urgent need for the government to come up with evidence-based policies and implement preventive strategies on the use and abuse of psychoactive drugs (especially among young people) in the country. Since, it is a universally accepted strategy that prevention is more effective than treatment.

SOLACE: Compared to the magnitude of the problem, how can Nigeria scale-up training for professionals in drug prevention and treatment?

MAW: A curriculum for the training of professionals in drug prevention and treatment should be developed into a course of study in our university system. Professionals interested in the field of drug prevention and treatment

should have the opportunity of pursuing advanced degrees in drug prevention and treatment in our universities.

SOLACE: What will be your advice for upcoming professionals in substance abuse treatment and prevention?

MAW: Young and upcoming professionals in the substance abuse treatment and prevention, should on a continuous basis update their knowledge in the field with short courses and degree programs where available. They should be encouraged to carry out research in substance abuse and treatment and interface with other professionals in the field of substance abuse treatment and prevention.

SOLACE: Thanks for your time and contributions

MAW: You are welcome. Thanks!

SAFE PREVENTION & TREATMENT PRACTICES FOR SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19



1

Practice e-counseling except when direct counseling is absolutely necessary



2

Reduce the size of counseling groups and sessions if they must hold



3

Maintain relationships with other professionals during these times, so as to reduce fear and get updates on winning the war in a pandemic



4

Ensure strict protocols are maintained in in-patient and out-patient treatment programmes



INAUGURATION OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS

17TH OCTOBER, 2019, CHELSEA HOTEL, ABUJA



The President ISSUP Nigeria Chapter,
Dr. Martin O. Agwogie

The Nigerian Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals, ISSUP Nigeria was inaugurated on the 17th October 2019 at the Chelsea Hotel, Abuja as a positive response to the numerous drug and substance abuse problems facing Nigeria as a country. The inauguration became necessary following the approval of the global body (International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals) for the inauguration of the Nigerian chapter having met all the criteria for the inauguration of a National Chapter.

The inauguration was seen as a dream come through for about 200 ISSUP Nigerian members who have long yearned for a nondiscriminatory professional body/Network in the drug demand reduction sector which is capable of giving practitioners the right direction from the

evidence-based perspective with less ambiguity.

The event which was chaired by His Excellency Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) OFR, Chairman, Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse (PACEDA), had in attendance distinguished personalities cutting across policy makers, diplomatic community, academia and practitioners with great interest in drug and substance abuse prevention, treatment and policy. Some of the dignitaries in attendance include, Professor Musa A. Wakil, Board of Trustees Chairman, ISSUP Nigeria, Dr Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Nigeria, Country Representative, Mr James Jewett II, Director, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, (INL), Dr. Daniel Shaga Ismaila, former Director Administration and Finance, NDLEA, Dr. Lawrence U. Opara, former Director Training and Manpower Development and one time Director of Drug Demand



UNODC Country Representative,
Dr. Oliver Stolpe



Otunba Lanre Ipinmosho, MFR

Reduction, NDLEA, Pharm. Hashim Ubale Yusufu, former Director foods and drugs regulation, NAFDAC, Dr. Bashir A. Yakasai, former MD/CEO Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kware Sokoto State and Professor Princewill Stanley from University of Port Harcourt who was the guest lecturer among other dignitaries.

During his opening remarks, Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) who was represented by

Otunba Lanre Ipinmosho, MFR a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse and former Director General, NDLEA congratulated all members of the association for thinking towards bringing ISSUP to Nigeria. He went ahead to challenge government at all levels, private sector and other stakeholders to work out modalities that will facilitate the reduction of drug abuse as this would go a long way in contributing significantly towards addressing the challenges of substance abuse in the country. In his word, "that the nation is in a crisis of substance abuse is an understatement considering the fact that substance abuse has become one of the biggest challenges the country has ever seen in recent times and this problem must be dealt with".

The Chairman ended his remarks with the formal inauguration of a 21 Member National Executive Council of ISSUP Nigeria with Dr Martin O. Agwogie, Dr. Ibrahim W. Abdu and Dr Gboyega E. Abikoye emerging as President, Vice President and General Secretary of the association respectively and certificate/letter of appointment was presented to all the inaugurated National Executive Members. The association's Code of Ethics and Standards was also presented to the general public as a guide



ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Executives



to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery profession in Nigeria.

During his inaugural address which was titled A new Dawn for Drug Demand Reduction in Nigeria, the president appreciated all the invited guests that were in attendance, the Board of Trustees and Members of ISSUP for their support in making the inauguration a success.

As part of his address, he said the vision of ISSUP Nigeria is to build a united, trained, skilled, knowledgeable and effective multidisciplinary national network of substance use prevention, treatment, recovery professionals and researchers undertaking and promoting high quality evidence-based substance use prevention, treatment and policies.

He went ahead to state the objectives of ISSUP Nigeria as listed below:

1. Support and build capacity of substance use research, prevention, treatment and recovery professionals for effective and efficient service delivery
2. Collaborate; build positive relationship with government, local and international organizations towards effective drug control in Nigeria.
3. Promote and support professional

information sharing, evidence based, high quality, ethical policy and practice in substance use prevention, treatment and recovery.

4. Provide the potentials for contributions towards substance use prevention, treatment and recovery by engaging local communities and allied professionals to address specific drug issues within an environment.
5. Do such acts and things as may be necessary and/or incidental to the aforesaid objectives and as may be agreed to be taken up by the ISSUP Nigeria's governing board from time to time.

The climax of his inaugural speech was the association's plans to introduce drug addiction studies in the nation's tertiary institutions for the purpose of furthering the body of knowledge in the field of drug demand reduction.

While delivering his lecture with the theme, "Drug Demand Reduction, Holistic and Integrated Approach for Sustainable National Development, the Way Forward," the Guest Lecturer and Professor of Mental Health Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist, University of

Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Prof. Princewill Stanley said, "It is unfortunate that among every 4 drug users in Nigeria, one is a woman.

He went further to say that more men (annual prevalence of 21.8 per cent or 10.8 million men) than women (annual prevalence of 7.0 per cent or 3.4 million women) represented past-year drug use in Nigeria." He added that the highest level of any past year drug use was among ages 25-39 years, saying one in five persons (20 percent) who had used drugs in the past year suffer from drug use disorders. "Cannabis is the most commonly used drug with an estimated 10.8 per cent of the population or 10.6 million people with an average age of initiation us among the general population of 19 years," he said.

He charged the Nigerian Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP Nigeria) to advice and work with the government to establish drug demand reduction regulatory body to supervise and regulate the practice of drug demand reduction in Nigeria. Beyond that, such body should be given legislative teeth to bite appropriately, while visible coordination activates should be



INL Country Director,
Mr. James Jewett



One of the Awardees

carried out in the three levels of government. Dr Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Nigeria, Country Representative, Mr. James Jewett II, Director, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, (INL), Executive Director of ISSUP Global, Ms. Joanna Travis-Roberts, Commissioner for Social Affairs African Union Commission, representatives of Federal Minister of Health, the Commandant General Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC), the National University Commission (NUC), Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) presented goodwill messages with a promise of future partnerships and collaboration.

As measures to appreciate long standing contributions in the drug demand reduction profession, some selected personalities whose works were outstanding were presented with honorary awards in appreciation of their commitment and contributions towards the national fight against drug and substance abuse in Nigeria.

In conclusion, the association had her first Annual General Meeting, (AGM) where all the major decisions of the association were rectified.

PHOTO SPEAK



Otunba Lanre Ipinmosho, MFR at the Event



Otunba Lanre Ipinmosho, MFR with
ACG Kabiru Gambo, NSCDC



The President & Vice, Dr. Ibrahim W. Abdu



The President & Prof. Helen O. Osinowo



The President with Chairman BOT,
Prof. Musa A. Wakil



The President and the Publicity Secretary/
Mobilization, Dr. Bawo O. James



Prof. Princewill Stanley, Guest Speaker
Being Introduced

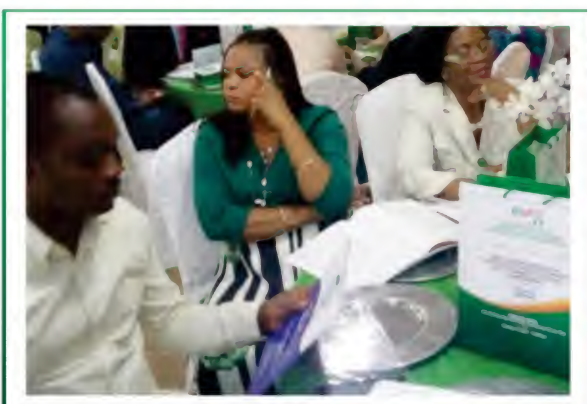


Attendees at the Inauguration Ceremony

PHOTO SPEAK



PHOTO SPEAK



ISSUP NIGERIA NEWS

- ISSUP Nigeria Chapter collaborates with UNODC to deliver telephone counselling services through the DrugHelpNet - April/May, 2020
- 5 members of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter selected for New Counselling Skills Mentoring Course - May, 2020
- 14 members of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter undertaking a walk-through training on the development of addiction studies in Nigerian universities under the coordination of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) - May, 2020
- ISSUP Global held an online (Zoom) meeting with the leadership of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter - May 5th, 2020
- ISSUP Nigeria Chapter issued a press statement on substance use prevention and treatment in the COVID-19 pandemic - May 11th, 2020
 - counsel government and the general public to be vigilant and help to mitigate risk factors that could expose individuals to substance use during and after the pandemic.
 - pledge support to the government in providing drug treatment to persons who use drugs and are in any of the COVID-19 isolation centres in Nigeria
- ISSUP Nigeria Chapter to commence Webinar for its members in July, 2020
- The launching of ISSUP Nigeria South East Zone comes up soon (2020)
- ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Annual General Meeting and conference comes up on the 20th of October, 2020

ISSUP Nigeria Chapter

Building a Multidisciplinary Network of Core and Allied Professionals

New members are welcome

Membership process

- Visit www.issup.net then to membership
- Click on Apply Now or Apply Today and follow the procedure.
- Click on join Nigeria Chapter

For further enquiries or how to join ISSUP Nigeria, reach us on:

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Or send mail to:

ISSUPNigeria@gmail.com